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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Executive Order 14072.

It is vitally important that our forests are protected to the greatest extent we can muster as climate change impacts humans and all other life on the planet. The forests are our most effective means of carbon sequestration at scale and the biggest, oldest trees are the biggest holders and the best able to withstand wildfire damage and destruction. They should not be logged.

Here in the Pacific NW and more particularly in my southwestern Oregon region, the forests have grown with wildfire as an integral part of the ecosystem, though there is no doubt that the current, climate-driven regime of very large fires occurring on top of each other makes recovery more difficult. But the exchange, through logging, of large old trees for young plantations is not helpful. Opening the canopy with small clearcuts is also unlikely to be helpful, allowing the sun and wind to dry out the forest floor and increase flammability.

In this area, trees 80 years old and older should be considered "old-growth" and left standing in place. Once they are logged, they're gone, and won't be back in our lifetime, if ever. We need to do our best to keep our forests protected by putting fire back to the understory when conditions make that possible, thinning if needed around homes and settlements, and keeping our forests intact. We've entered "uncharted waters" now, and will need to pay close attention to what is happening on the ground. Most of all, we need to "first, do no harm." Please have this top of mind when planning around this order.